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UP-COMING EVENTS

April 22- May 21
Take Pride in Utah Month

May 7, 2005
Take Pride in Nebraska Day
www.ngpc.state.ne.us

May 14-15, 2005
Good Sam International
Cleanup Day
www.goodsams.net

May 14-22, 2005
National River Cleanup
Week
www.nationalrivercleanup.com

A Note from our Executive Director

So close... The volunteers were gathered. There I stood, Take Pride vest in hand, ready to meet President Bush at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He and Secretary Norton were scheduled to arrive shortly to work with volunteers on a Take Pride trail project.

Suddenly, lightning flashed and thunder boomed, and then it started to pour, resulting in the event's cancellation. Nevertheless, we acquired some wonderful pictures of some of our outstanding volunteers – from Great Smoky Mountains National Park's Volunteers in Parks program and from Pi Beta Phi Elementary School of Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Despite the weather, we all had a great time, and we are looking forward to another opportunity to have the President participate in a Take Pride event!



Take Pride volunteers at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

I am excited about all the new volunteer opportunities and events that are being added every day and are available to all of you on our Web site. We continue to get calls from people looking for even more opportunities to volunteer on our public lands – proof that there is a great deal of interest in volunteer stewardship. Keep the events and volunteer opportunities coming!

Sincerely,

Marti Allbright

Awards Reminder!

Good news - You still have time to nominate individuals and groups for consideration to receive a 2005 National Take Pride in America Award!



Through June 15, nominations for awards in more than 10 different categories will be accepted via online application at www.TakePride.gov/awards/default.cfm.

Projects that have begun and/or have been completed between June 1, 2004, and June 5, 2005, are eligible.

NPS Awards Grants

This spring, 37 grants for the Take Pride in America National Park Service Park Steward Event program were announced.

A total of \$30,600 in grants were awarded for events scheduled to take place in 28 different locations throughout the Nation in 2005. When all of the awarded projects are completed, it is expected that 4,334 volunteers will have combined to amass 45,756 hours of service.

Take Pride thanks the National Park Service for its continued efforts in promoting volunteer service on our public lands!

President Bush Celebrates Earth Day in TN

Although inclement weather forced the cancellation of President Bush's scheduled Take Pride in America Earth Day event in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Air Force One landed at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tenn., on April 22, giving the President an opportunity to speak to Tennesseans about Earth Day.

"Today is Earth Day, a day in which we recommit ourselves to being good stewards of our land," said President Bush, who traveled with Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and a group of Tennessee legislators that included Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Sen. Lamar Alexander and U.S. Rep. Jimmy Duncan. "We didn't create this Earth, but we have an obligation to protect it."

During his remarks, President Bush emphasized the importance he places on passing legislation to help the environment. His proposals aim to reduce nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and mercury in the air by letting smokestack industries trade pollution rights among themselves, within overall caps set by the government. The plan sets a 2018 deadline for reducing the three pollutants by 70 percent.

"First, we have finalized a rule that will cut pollution from heavy

diesel engines by 90 percent," the President said. "And, secondly, I put forth a series of rules called the Clear Skies Initiative, which will cut air pollution from coal-fired power plants by 70 percent. The initiatives we did through executive order are important, but it would sure be helpful if Congress passed the Clear Skies legislation, as well."

After commenting on several successful environmental programs that have been placed into action in the 21st century, the President reinforced the Take Pride in America message, saying, "My message to the good folks of Tennessee on Earth Day is we have a duty and an obligation to protect our environment. But that obligation is not just a Federal obligation; there is a state obligation, a local obligation, and each of us as citizens can do our part, as well."



President Bush speaks about Earth Day at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, TN. Secretary Norton and members of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation stand behind the president.

President Bush closed by commending the wonderful volunteer base that contributes to the maintenance and conservation of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

"There are 2,000 volunteers who work in the Smokies," the President said. "Doesn't surprise me. After all, this is the Volunteer State."

NPS Director Honors Take Pride Volunteers

On April 21, in a show of gratitude, National Park Service Director Fran Mainella presented 11 volunteers and one volunteer group with Take Pride in America awards for their service to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. With National Parks Service Regional Director Pat Hooks and Great Smoky Mountains Park Superintendent Dale Ditmanson also on hand at the park's Sugarlands Visitor Center, Mainella distributed nine Presidential Awards, two Secretarial Awards and one Appreciation Certificate.

Accompanied by family, friends, local dignitaries and Great Smoky Mountains Park staff, honorees received recognition for extraordinary volunteer service time. En route to earning acclaim as

individuals, Secretarial awardees logged at least 3,000 hours while Presidential



Director Mainella with Take Pride Volunteers.

honorees racked up at least 4,000 hours – with the most prolific volunteer eclips-

ing the 12,000-hour plateau.

Meanwhile, employees of BWXT Y-12 received an Appreciation Certificate for combining to amass more than 10,000 volunteer hours at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. On April 16, the group celebrated the 10th anniversary of its first volunteer project.

Last year, 2,129 volunteers donated an astounding 111,935 hours in contributing to the maintenance and conservation of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. That dedication earned the park distinction as having the most expansive Volunteers in Parks program of its kind in the Southeast and the third-largest of all the National Parks.

PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

National Clean Beaches

Week Proclamation Drive!

The Clean Beaches Council, a Take Pride Charter Partner, is spearheading a national proclamation effort to get residents and visitors of beaches across the U.S. to contact their elected officials (Governors, Mayors, etc.) and encourage them to designate June 27-July 3 as National Clean Beaches Week in their communities. Coastal cities and states that issue proclamations will be invited to the national press event in Washington, DC, and will be officially recognized during CBC's national outreach campaign, taking place during the week.

The campaign will highlight the four major themes of importance to beachgoers: environment, travel, healthy seafood, and recreation.



Take Pride in America encourages all participating communities to host volunteer events in conjunction with Clean Beaches Week, highlighting the importance of volunteerism in keeping our beaches pristine.

For more information on how you can encourage your elected officials to take part, log on to www.cleanbeaches.org.

Interior Employees Lend a Hand

On April 9, a sun-splashed Saturday in early spring, representatives from Take Pride in America's national headquarters led a contingent of employees from the U.S. Department of the Interior in volunteering to help keep Washington, D.C.-area waterways safe and clean. Working in four-hour shifts for Capital River Relief 2005, dozens of Department



A volunteer picks up plastic bottles near the river.

of the Interior staff members volunteered to help remove debris from the banks of the Potomac River.

By the end of the day, the group had combined to collect 567 bags of garbage, 18 tires, four metal barrels and two newspaper dispensers while focusing on two highly concentrated areas along the Potomac.

"It was the best cleanup day we've had this year,"

Volunteers turn out for

Park Day in record numbers

April 2 marked the Civil War Preservation Trust's ninth annual Park Day. Despite torrential downpours on much of the East Coast, thousands of volunteers turned out across the country to help clean up Civil War battlefields and historic sites.

In partnership with Take Pride in America, Park Day 2005 saw an estimated 2,500 volunteers turn out to 89 sites in 23 states from Maine to New Mexico, rain or shine. Volunteers cleared trash and debris, raked, planted trees, landscaped, repaired or moved artillery pieces, and otherwise helped clean and improve Civil War sites nationwide. All in all, volunteers donated approximately 10,000 hours to the parks.

Participating volunteers, when the weather permitted, received historical tours of the sites they helped spruce up, as well as T-shirts featuring Park Day 2005's theme, "Deserve their Sacrifice, Preserve their Memory," and Take Pride Volunteer Guides.

Raymond Battlefield in Mississippi was given the Most Active Park Day Site Award, receiving a \$1,000 prize from The History Channel, which sponsors Park Day each year.



A group of Interior Department volunteers show their pride on the river bank.

said Tammy Becker, education coordinator for Living Lands & Waters, a non-profit organization integral to the Capital River Relief project, which began on March 31 and ran through April 22 (Earth Day). "We had such a great group of people. The weather was absolutely beautiful. It couldn't have been better."

Over 23 days, the Capital River Relief project hosted 5,500 volunteers, removing 258 tons of trash.

Take Pride in America Earth Day Events

Take Pride in America commends all the wonderful volunteers who gave their time in honor of Earth Day 2005. Throughout the country, volunteers took part in many Take Pride-sanctioned Earth Day events.

Promised Land State Park

In Pike County, Penn., 65 people, including a group of 30 third- and fourth-graders, recognized Earth Day by clearing winter debris, litter and garbage from nearly 250 campsites, picking up litter from over 10 miles of park roads, shorelines and open water, and by planting over 100 chestnuts in a tornado ravaged area of the park. The celebration was in honor of the 100 years that Promised Land State park has provided the public with outdoor recreation.

Effigy Mounds National Monument

Thirty Five volunteers took pride in America by eradicating honeysuckle and garlic mustard at Effigy Mounds National Monument in Harpers Ferry, IA. Planned as part of National Park Week and Earth Day, volunteer efforts were a big bonus, helping remove invasive species that would otherwise take two weeks to eradicate by the lone staffer, normally assigned to the job. Participants also received a free lunch, provided by Eastern National. Take Pride t-shirts, ball caps and pins were a special bonus provided to these dedicated conservationists.

At right: A group of volunteers prepares to clean up Effigy Mounds National Monument.

Pennsylvania's Forest Lands Beautification Program

Volunteers answered the call from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis by cleaning up an illegal dumping area within the Moshannon State Forest, in Centre County, PA. The Earth Day event was part of Pennsylvania's Forest Lands Beautification Program, a joint effort with PA Cleanways, which identifies dump sites and forms groups of community volunteer to remove waste left behind by illegal dumpers. To date the group has teamed up to remove waste from 248 sites statewide.

For more information about Pennsylvania's Forest Lands Beautification Program, log on to www.CleanPAForests.org or call 1-877-7PAFOREST.

Cumberland Volunteers

A group of 18 dedicated volunteers honored Earth Day by working on the maintenance and improvement of Cumberland Island National Seashore in Southeast Georgia. During the effort, volunteers removed nearly 350 pounds of debris from the beach and river trail.

Student Conservation Association - New Hampshire Parks - AmeriCorps

In Manchester, N.H., despite an onslaught of heavy rain, volunteers had a productive outing in celebration of Earth Day. All told, 75 local volunteers each donated three hours of their time, working on a Rails-to-Trails (converting old railroads to multi-purpose trails) project and helping with the cleanup of an urban pond.



Host a National Public Lands Day Volunteer Event!

In conjunction with Take Pride in America, the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation seeks volunteers and site organizers to help with National Public Lands Day 2005.

The goal for the 12th Annual National Public Lands Day, which is set for Saturday, Sept. 24, is to top last year's contingent of 80,000 volunteers who helped spruce up more than 600 sites.

To see how you can become a site organizer or volunteer, or to learn more about the largest volunteer event of its kind in the Nation, log on to www.publiclandsday.org.

For more information on registering your events with Take Pride in America, visit http://www.takepride.gov/volunteer/event_form.cfm.

EPA Environmental Youth Awards

On April 21 at the White House, President Bush announced the 2005 winners of the Environmental Youth Awards.

With Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Steve Johnson and U.S. Rep. Vito Fossella (R-N.Y.) accompanying him, the President commended 30 awardees for their commitment to service and helping improve the environment.

"One of the greatest responsibilities in a free society is responsible stewardship of our natural environment," the President said. "All of you have taken that duty seriously. You have set a clear and strong example, and you're inspiring others to do their part."

"Each of you here today has worked hard. I know your parents are proud of you, your communities are proud of you, and so is your President."

Since 1971, the Environmental Protection Agency has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program encourages individuals, school classes, summer camps,

public-interest groups and youth organizations to promote local environmental awareness and to channel that awareness into positive community involvement.



EPA Acting Administrator Steve Johnson speaks as President Bush and award winners look on.

FL Trail Association

On March 19, Tom Daniel received the 2005 Cornelia Burge Award for his efforts in assisting the US Forest Service and the Florida Trail Association in reopening the Florida National Scenic Trail in the western panhandle of Florida after it was devastated by hurricane Ivan. Just one week after his own home was destroyed; Tom hit the trail to assess the damage on over 50 miles of trail through Eglin Air force Base and Blackwater River State Forest. Submitting detailed assessments outlining how many trees were down per mile of trail.

Once the assessment reports were submitted, Tom coordinated chainsaw training classes for the Western Gate Chapter of the Florida Trail Association and served as the volunteer contact for the Forest Service instructors that came to teach the class. He was the key facilitator and motivator of the Western Gate Chapter's volunteer efforts, who cumulatively reported over 3000 volunteer hours to the effort, typically a years work.

The Corenelia Burge Volunteer Service Award is presented by the Florida Trail Association, in recognition of a "truly unusual commitment outside of routine office." Tom's historic efforts to reopen the trail in the face of personal disaster, truly captures the spirit of volunteerism.

For more information on the Florida Trail Association and how to volunteer, please visit, www.floridatrail.org.

Welcome to the newest Take Pride Cities...

Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland, Apple Valley, MN

Mayor M.L. VanPoucke, Siloam Springs, AR

Mayor Tom Todd, Ecu, MS

Mayor Bill Rutledge, Pontotoc, MS

Pontotoc County, MS

For Your Information.....

We now have available the Take Pride in America Power Point presentation should you need one for an upcoming conference.

Please continue to send us your photos, event evaluation forms and write-ups of your events!

Email takepride@ios.doi.gov for our Power Point or if you have information for our newsletter. We look forward to highlighting you!

Thank you...

We want to thank our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride," please continue sending us articles for future editions.

Sincerely,

Take Pride Staff